

Statistics on Family Law in 2016

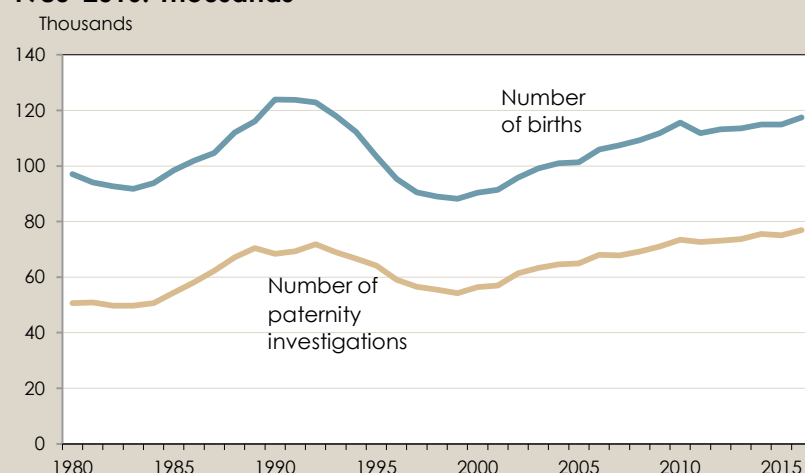
The number of paternity inquiries rising but the proportion of newborns is the same since the last six years. The number social service report the Court's retrieval of rapid information is increasing and the inquiries of custody, residence or access is on the rise.

Paternity inquiries remains unchanged

In 2016, just under 77,000 paternity inquiries were ongoing which means that 65 per cent of all children born that year were the subject to a paternity investigation. Of these, the majority or 84 per cent, ended with an acknowledgement of paternity. The proportion of ongoing paternity inquiries for newborns has been remained unchanged since 2012.

Figure 1 shows the trends for the period 1980 to 2016.

Figure 1. Number of paternity investigations and number of births 1980–2016. Thousands



Source: Statistics on Family Law 1980 to 1993, registry total population, Statistics Sweden. Volume Statistics on Family Law National board on Health and Welfare

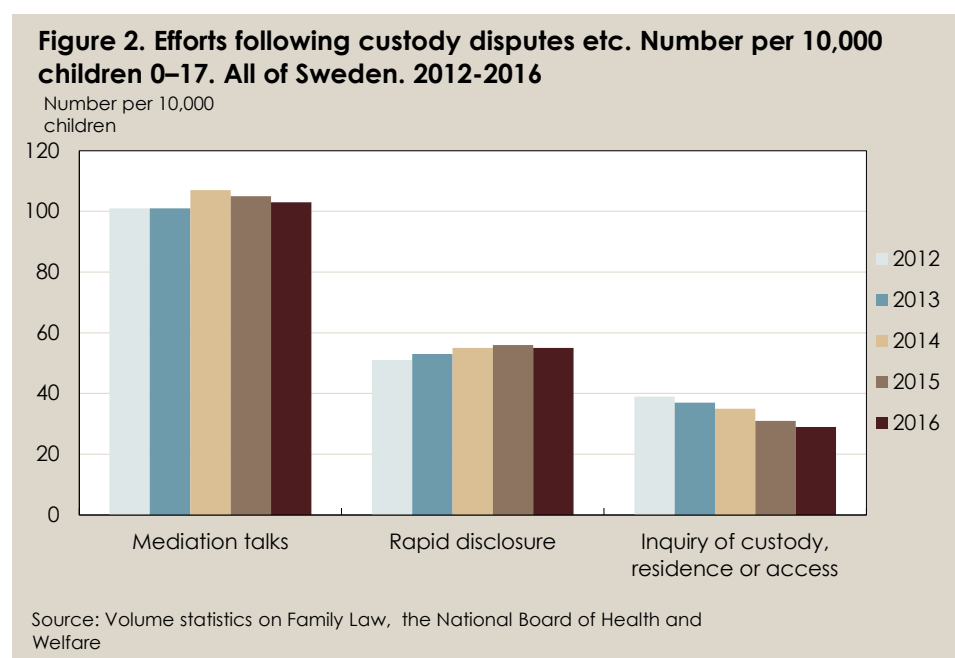
The number of inquiries is decreasing while rapid disclosure is on the rise

In 2016, just over 6,000 children in aged 0 to 17 years were the subject to inquiries regarding custody, residence or access. This corresponds to around 29 children and adolescents per 10,000 in this age group. In the period 2012 to 2016, this proportion dropped from 39 to 29 children.

Before the Court makes any temporary decisions in cases concerning custody, residence or access, it is possible to obtain information from the Social Service Committee, also referred to as rapid disclosure. In 2016, information of this type

was requested on just under 11,500 children aged 0 to 17 years. Over the past five years, the number of children who have been the subject of rapid disclosure has gradually risen by about 8 per cent per year on average. Figure 2 shows this trend over the past five years. The number of rapid disclosure that the Court requests from the the Social Service Committee before making custody decisions rose from 51 to 55 incidences per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17 years between 2012 and 2016.

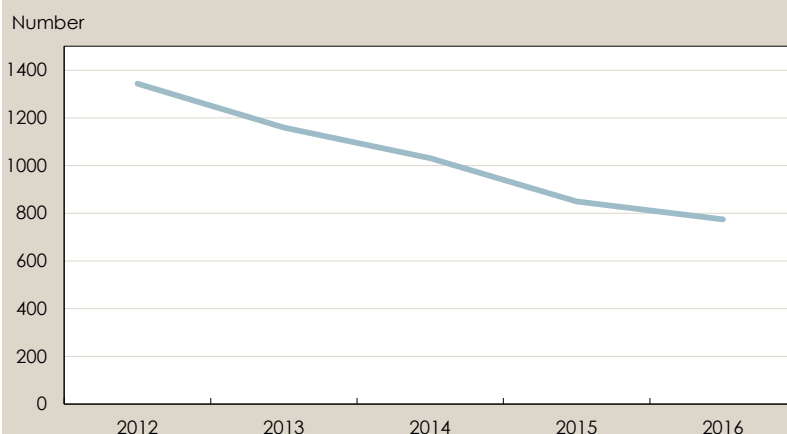
The purpose of mediation talks is that the parents come to an agreement in matters relating to a child's custody, residence and access in connection with a separation. Mediation talks can be held at the request of one or both parents or may be initiated by the District Court. In 2016 over 21,000 mediation talks were held, which corresponded to 103 per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17. The level was the same in 2016 as it was in 2012 see Figure 2 below.



The number of consent inquiries are decreasing

In 2016, 774 consent inquiries have been carried out for international adoptions.

Figure 3. Number of consent inquiries in international adoptions. All of Sweden 2012–2016



Source: Statistics on Family Law, National board of Health and Welfare

In the period 2012 to 2016 this form of inquiries decreased by just over 42 percent, from around 1,340 inquiries to approximately 775. The reason behind this reduction can be that the adoptions were 50 percent lower in 2016 as compared to 2012. In 2012 635 children were adopted from abroad and in 2016 it was 425 children [1].

Family law activities includes the following:

Paternity inquiries conducted by the Social Service Committee to determine paternity for children born to unmarried mothers. Paternity may be established through confirmation, that the father acknowledges paternity or through a judgment.

Mediation talks are talks led by professionals in order to reach consensus on issues concerning custody, residence and access.

Rapid disclosure includes the information as stated in Chapter 6, Section 19 of the Parental Code, that the Court requests from the Social Service Committee before an interim order on custody, residence or access can be made.

A custody, residence and access inquiry is an inquiry that will give the court a basis for decisions on custody, residence or access.

A consent inquiry is an investigations aimed at providing the Social Service Committee with underlying information in which to base a decision whether to consent to a child being adopted and living in private home.

References

1. Statistics Sweden. Nyblivna adopterade 2007–2016, av en eller två adoptivföräldrar, efter födelseland. Available from <http://www.scb.se/hitta-statistik/statistik-efter-amne/befolkning/befolkningens-sammansattning/befolkningsstatistik/>

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information in the following Excel file (in Swedish, but with English list of terms):

www.socialstyrelsen.se/publikationer2017/2017-5-9

If you want to use our statistical database (in Swedish):

www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik/statistikdatabas/familjeratt

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